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Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Report on activities for effective participation in the work of the Committee

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Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In its decision SC-7/15, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants requested the Secretariat to continue to undertake activities to support parties and others to participate effectively in the work of the Committee as listed in decision POPRC-10/7.

2. In its decision POPRC-10/7, the Committee invited the Secretariat to continue its activities related to supporting effective participation in the work of the Committee, subject to the availability of resources, including the organization of webinars, training and online meetings on topics related to the work of the Committee; and the organization of workshops and other face-to-face activities to build the capacities of parties and of training-of-trainers activities. Such activities may be carried out with the support of former and current Committee members, where possible, regional centres, regional networks and the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

II. Implementation

3. As part of the technical assistance programme of the Stockholm Convention (see UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/17), the Secretariat organized face-to-face training activities at which members of the Committee were invited to share information and experiences with one another, with members of the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and with other national stakeholders. A list of workshops organized and planned by the Secretariat is provided in document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.11/INF/13. Further information on workshops to enhance effective participation in the work of the Committee is also available on the Convention website.[1]

* UNEP/POPS/POPRC.11/1.

[1] http://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/POPsReviewCommittee/WorkshopsandWebinars/tabid/419/Default.aspx.

4. The Secretariat also held a series of webinars on topics related to the work of the Committee. Some of the webinars contributed to the work on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the scientific subsidiary bodies of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Following each webinar, a recording of the presentation, along with questions and answers, was posted on the Convention website.[2] The webinar topics are also listed in document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.11/INF/13.

III. Proposed action

5. The Committee may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

1. *Invites* the Secretariat to continue its activities related to supporting effective participation in the work of the Committee, subject to the availability of resources, including:

(a) The organization of webinars, training and online meetings on topics related to the work of the Committee;

(b) The organization of workshops and other face-to-face activities to build the capacities of parties and of training-of-trainers activities, with the support of Committee members, regional centres, regional networks and the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

(c) The facilitation, in cooperation with members of the Committee and the regional centres, of the development of pilot projects to stimulate the active involvement of different stakeholders in the work of the Committee, such as the academic community, research institutes and universities;

(d) The development of tools to facilitate the sharing of information and resources to support the effective participation of parties and others in the work of the Committee, including, for example, the development of training modules and videos;

2. *Invites* regional centres to play an active role in providing assistance to facilitate the effective participation in the work of the Committee, including through the exchange of information and expert knowledge in their areas of expertise;

3. *Invites* parties and observers in a position to do so to contribute to the work of the Committee and to provide financial support to facilitate the effective participation by parties in that work.

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[2] http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/OnlineLibrary/tabid/2539/Default.aspx.